

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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For Immediate Release
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WSP's Undercover Sting Nets Tacoma Man Soliciting Sex with a Minor

Joel A. DiBacco, age 27, from Tacoma, was arrested on May 3, 2006, for Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes and Attempted Rape of a young girl he met on the Internet.

The Washington State Patrol's Missing & Exploited Children Task Force was conducting an online proactive investigation when DiBacco allegedly started a sexual conversation with its profile. DiBacco believed he was chatting with a 13 year-old girl when he was actually chatting with an undercover WSP detective. DiBacco allegedly requested to meet the juvenile so that they could have sex. When DiBacco arrived at the Lakewood Transit Center to meet the young girl, he was met by detectives from the State Patrol's Missing & Exploited Children Task Force.

DiBacco was booked into the Pierce County Jail for Attempted Rape 2nd Degree, Attempted Child Molestation 2nd Degree, and Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes.

Captain Mark Couey, Investigative Assistance Division, stated that investigations such as these help protect our children from online predators and will hopefully deter other would-be predators.

The Missing and Exploited Children Task Force is a multi-agency task force that assists law enforcement, state and federal agencies, and the proper custodial parent(s) or guardian(s) by conducting investigations on missing, abducted, and exploited children. For more information about the task force, please contacted Detective Sergeant Dan Sharp at (360) 704-2390 or visit www.wsp.wa.gov/missing/ourkids.htm

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